

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 00149 211924Z
ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4068
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0149

DEPARTMENT PASS AID

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, EAID, GY
SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON ALEXANDER-HAMMOND RECOMMENDATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 1581, (B) 76 AID TO CIRC A-583

1. EMBASSY REGRETS DELAY IN REPLYING TO REF AIRGRAM WHICH WAS CAUSED BY TRANSFER OF LABOR REPORTING OFFICER. SINCE GUYANA DOES NOT HAVE A BILATERAL AIFLD LABOR PROGRAM AT THIS TIME, EMBASSY HAS ONLY COMMENTED ON RECOMMENDATIONS 1 TO 3, 4A, AND ON CARIBBEAN REGIONAL LABOR PROGRAM AS IT APPLIES TO THESE IN CONTEXT OF GUYANA.

2. ALEXANDER-HAMMOND REPORT ADDRESSES CERTAIN QUESTIONS THAT ARE IMPORTANT FOR FUTURE OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN U.S. LABOR MOVEMENT AND GUYANA TRADES UNION CONGRESS (GTUC). INCREASING GOG PRESSURE HAS ELICITED GTUC SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT'S THRUST TOWARDS SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM.

3. OUR VIEW IS THAT GTUC'S SUPPORT OF GOG SOCIALIST POLICIES DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT IT INTENDS TO CUT
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ALL TIES TO WESTERN LABOR. RATHER, GTUC WANTS TO MAINTAIN ITS TRADITIONAL ATTACHMENT TO WESTERN LABOR BUT BALANCE THIS BE DEVELOPING CONTACTS WITH SOCIALIST LABOR MOVEMENTS. INDICATIONS ARE THAT SOME GTUC LEADERS HAVE NO DESIRE TO RUSH INTO AFFILIATION WITH THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (WFTU). GENERAL SECRETARY OF GTUC JOSEPH POLLYDORE HAS CALLED FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU)

TO LIBERALIZE CERTAIN UNSPECIFIED POLICIES SO THAT IT CAN BE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO SOCIALIST CARIBBEAN LABOR MOVEMENTS. GTUC OFFICIALS MAINTAIN SOME LIMITED CONTACTS WITH THE U.S. LABOR MOVEMENT, ESPECIALLY AFL-CIO.

4. GTUC IS, THEN, STILL SOMEWHAT INFLUENCED BY VALUES OF AND ASSOCIATION WITH WESTERN LABOR. THEREFORE, THOUGH GUYANA'S SHARE OF CARIBBEAN LABOR PROGRAM HAS BEEN SMALL, SOME FORM OF CONTINUED ACTIVITY IS DESIRABLE. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS THAT CONCENTRATE ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING TECHNIQUES, WORKER PARTICIPATION IN INDUSTRY, ORGANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATIVES, PROFIT-SHARING PROGRAMS AND PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT COULD SERVE JOINT PURPOSE OF ATTITUDINAL BUILDING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTE PREFERENCE OF GTUC LEADERS FOR DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM AND INSTITUTIONAL INDEPENDENCE. OTHER PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE DIRECT FINANCIAL AID FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE USEFUL. HOWEVER, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THERE CAN BE ANY WIDELY INFLUENTIAL LABOR PROGRAM IN THIS AVOWEDLY SOCIALIST COUNTRY AS LONG AS THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR FREE LABOR DEVELOPMENT (AIFLD) REMAINS PRINCIPAL AGENT FOR IT. ALTHOUGH GTUC LEADERS HAVE NOT RULED OUT PARTICIPATION IN AIFLD PROGRAMS, THAT ORGANIZATION IS CONSIDERED TOO CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE COVERT IMPLEMENTATION OF USG POLITICAL POLICIES. GTUC WOULD BE MORE RECEPTIVE TO AID OFFERED DIRECTLY EITHER BY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR OR ON A UNION TO UNION BASIS.

5. U.S. REGIONAL LABOR PROGRAM SHOULD CONTINUE TO
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EMPHASIZE STRENGTHENING OF CARIBBEAN CONGRESS OF LABOR (CCL). GTUC LEADERS SUCH AS POLLYDORE WISH TO REMAIN AFFILIATED WITH CCL AS LONG AS IT EXPANDS MEMBERSHIP TO INCLUDE CUBA AND OTHER NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES. POLLYDORE ALSO WELCOMES PROSPECT OF AN INTER-AMERICAN ORGANIZATION OF WORKERS (ORIT) REVIVED WITH FUNDS PROVIDED EITHER BY U.S. LABOR UNIONS OR USG. THIS TYPE OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION WOULD BE ATTRACTIVE TO GTUC AS SOURCE OF AID.
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